

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Effects of the Rumanian Amnesty Decree Among the Rumanian Emigres	DATE DISTR.	21 Oct. 1955	25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Rumanian Government has launched a large-scale propaganda action in which it invites Rumanian emigrants to return to Rumania. This campaign is watched by the emigrants from Rumania now living in Austria and Western Germany, Rumanians as well as Germans, with great concern.
2. The basis for this re-emigration action was an amnesty decree the full wording of which was sent to almost all Rumanian emigrants in Western Germany by the Rumanian Embassy in the GDR in registered letters. Later German emigrants from Rumania, such as the Banat Swabians and the Transylvanian Saxons, were caught by this propaganda action. More and more Germans, who correspond regularly with their relatives left behind in Rumania, received letters inviting them, with reference to the amnesty decree, to return to their homeland.
3. This propaganda campaign has to some extent been successful, especially among the Banat Swabians in Austria, because their economic and legal situation is less stable and the process of their incorporation into the native population is slower than that in Western Germany. The farmers among the Banat Swabians were particularly affected by the Rumanian propaganda because some farms in the Banat district which had been seized as German property by the Government in 1944/45 were returned to their previous owners. So far the farmers among the Transylvanian Saxons in Western Germany and in Austria have not fallen for the propaganda, but some members of the Transylvanian intelligentsia are considering the possibility of returning to Rumania.

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Comment: Although a strengthening of the German element in the Soviet Bloc would be welcomed under normal circumstances, it is very undesirable under the aspects indicated in the present report. There is no doubt that the resettlers will be absorbed by the Communist propaganda with the result that the number of Germans with Communist leanings will

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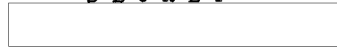
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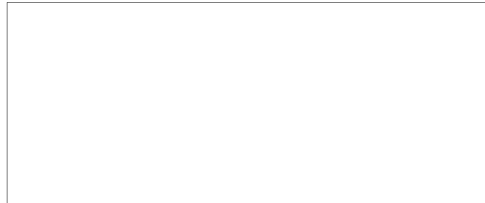
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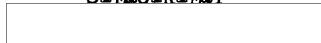
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be growing. This development would be very dangerous indeed if the re-emigration propaganda among the Sudetic Germans, which is being launched by the East under the motto of coexistence, yielded positive results. In Austria, which is now the home of 300,000 Sudetic Germans, the conditions for a propaganda campaign are particularly favorable, owing to the unstable economic situation of the emigrants. If this campaign should be a success, it would give considerable support to the Communist propaganda in Western Germany.



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